

Emery County man found wit

An unidentified Emery County man was recently diagnosed as having been infected with hantavirus.

The deadly infection claimed the life of a Carbon County woman several years ago.

The latest hantavirus case occurred in July. Blood tests at the Utah Department of Health laboratory as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga., confirmed the presence of the vi-

rus.

The Emery County man has recovered from the hantavirus infection and is doing well, pointed out David Cunningham, an officer at Southeastern Utah Health Dis-

trict.

Hantavirus is a dangerous disease, warned the health officer. The virus resulted in a 40 percent death rate.

Emery County makes up with US Gypsum

By LAYNE MILLER
Progress editor

Emery County officials seem to have made peace with U.S. Gypsum, the company proposing to develop a gypsum mine on the west side of the San Rafael Swell.

A large contingent of company officials attended the Emery County Public Lands Council meeting last week in an effort to smooth over some of the differences between the company and the county.

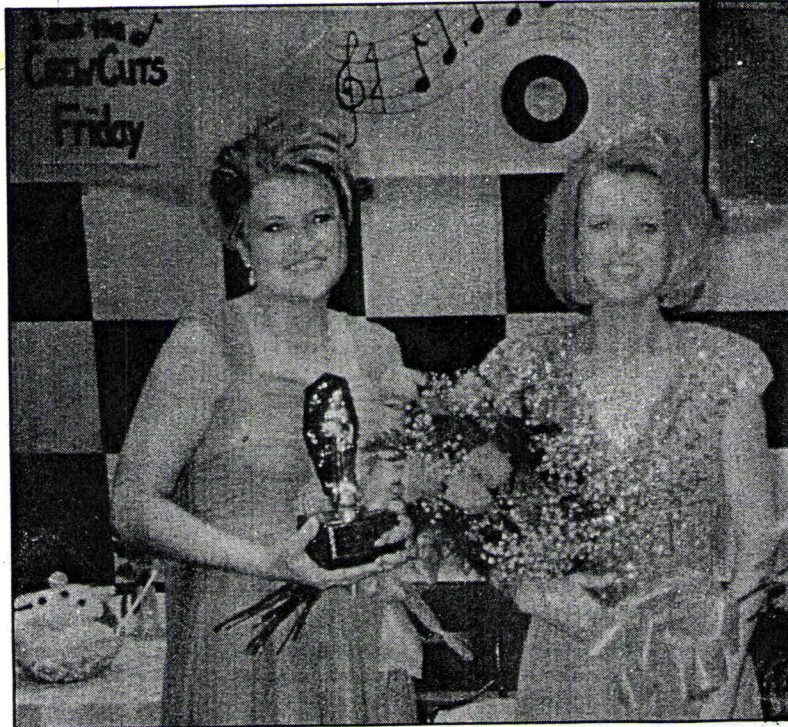
The announcement of the mine last year drew criticism from county officials because they believe the plant will not benefit Emery County's economy. In fact, some people pointed out that for the first time in recent memory, Emery County was on the same side of an issue as the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

That assessment caused local officials to reassess their position and modify their statements of opposition.

The local Bureau of Land Management office was also ordered to conduct a full-blown environmental assessment, rather than a smaller environmental analysis on the project. U.S. Gypsum officials were scheduled to meet with BLM officials about the EIS the day

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BLM still working on OHV plan



Miss Emery County royalty crowned

The Miss Emery Scholarship Pageant was held in the Emery High Auditorium last Saturday evening under the direction of the Emery Service Club. Emcees were Randy Johnson and the 1997 Miss Emery Amanda Huntsman. Both sang special Numbers as did the Huntington Glee Club. After the tabulation of the ballots Michelle Leonhardt of Ferron was crowned Miss Emery County.

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Methane gas heading for Wasatch Front

By LAYNE MILLER

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U.S. gypsum corporate counsel Virginia Yang discusses company plans.

Emery County patches up relationship with U.S. Gypsum:

after last Tuesday's public lands council meeting.

In discussing the reinventory of wilderness land in Utah announced recently by the Utah Wilderness Coalition, U.S. Gypsum's B.T. Webster said his company is concerned about prospects of having the Emery County mine surrounded by wilderness.

"We are concerned about the (negative) economic potential," said Webster. "We are here today, because we want to be good corporate citizens."

Emery County Public Lands director Val Payne said he is pleased with the recent documents he has seen on the project.

"They are substantially improved over the original documents," said Payne.

The gypsum mine is located near Kimball Draw and Devil's Canyon, which is located within the lands proposed for wilderness by UWC.

Emery County officials noted that the mine site was left out of the National Conservation Area proposal because of the company's prior existing mine leases.

Some discussion ensued about the economic impacts to Emery County. Local officials said they believe there will be little positive impact. In fact, council member Perry Bunderson said he believes county officials are being too easy on the company and he believes there will be no positive benefits for local residents, only negative.

"I seriously doubt U.S. Gyp-

sum will benefit Emery County more than not having them here would," said Bunderson. "I think we should be tougher, much tougher on them. Right now I don't think it's worth it to Emery County."

The gypsum will be mined in Emery County, then shipped by truck to the processing plant in Sigurd in Sevier County.

U.S. Gypsum attorney Virginia Yang said Emery County will benefit by the template it created in analyzing the mine.

"I think we need to protect our right to develop minerals on public land," said Commissioner Bevan Wilson.

Payne encouraged the company to consider Emery County if the company decides to build any new infrastructure.

Governor rural Become 2

In a recent letter, Governor Leavitt personal local community leaders to provide leadership and commitment to lead to 21st Century designation decisions.

"I urge you to a challenge," the Governor said. "Become a 21st Century community!"

Utah r produ drops

Utah milk production in the second quarter totaled 366 million pounds, a 9.9 percent drop from the same quarter of 1997, according to the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station.

The number of milk cows in the state during the April-June period averaged 87,000 head, less than the same period in 1997. Milk production per cow dropped 15 percent from the previous year.

Nationally, the production of milk was down 0.8 percent in the April-June period from the same period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the June quarter was 100,000 head, 81,000 head in the same period last year.

Utah grain production will increase

Utah's 1998 winter wheat yield is forecast at 50 bushels

bushels, down 4 percent from last year.

last year.

Other spring wheat is forecast

Oats for grain production are the same as last year.